

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 01642 141805Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 IO-10 SAI-01 EB-07

FAA-00 DOTE-00 /076 W

----- 068747

O 141730Z AUG 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1309

AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAREUR IMMEDIATE

USELMLO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1642

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD, OPS AND INCO

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-COC & AEAGB-CI

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, UR, WB

SUBJECT: AUGUST 13 INCIDENT IN SOUTH CORRIDOR

REF: USBERLIN 1639

1. SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH DELIVERY OF PROTEST IN BASC AT
1500 TODAY (REFTEL) ACTING US POLAD SPOKE TO SOVIET
EMBASSY COUNSELLOR ALONG LINES OF BASC PROTEST AND ALSO
STATED THE FOLLOWING:

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PAGE 02 USBERL 01642 141805Z

BEGIN TEXT:

THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE AUGUST 13 INCIDENT BECAUSE THE MANEUVER PERFORMED BY THE FIGHTER PILOT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A DELIBERATE ONE. THIS APPARENTLY DELIBERATE ACTION SUGGESTS TO US THAT FIRMER MEASURES ARE CALLED FOR ON THE SOVIET SIDE TO PREVENT RECURRENCES. IN VIEW OF YOUR ASSURANCES TO THE U.S. POLITICAL ADVISER ON THE JULY 25 INCIDENT, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THIS LATEST INCIDENT WAS IN FACT THE ACTION OF AN INDIVIDUAL WITHOUT POLITICAL MOTIVATION.

WHATEVER THE MOTIVATION, WE DO BELIEVE THIS MATTER DESERVES IMMEDIATE ACTION. THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES IN BERLIN HAVE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS UNDERSCORED TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY THE EXTREME SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THEY REGARD SUCH INCIDENTS IN THE AIR CORRIDORS. IT HAD BEEN OUR EXPECTATION THAT THESE WOULD CEASE FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND'S CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV ON THE SUBJECT ON MAY 12. HOWEVER, WITHIN THE SPACE OF A FEW WEEKS WE HAVE WITNESSED TWO MAJOR INCIDENTS THAT HAVE POSED AN UNACCEPTABLE THREAT TO THE SAFETY OF INNOCENT PASSENGERS, THE ONE PRESUMABLY THE CONSEQUENCE OF GROSS NAVIGATIONAL ERROR AND THE OTHER AN APPARENTLY DELIBERATE MANEUVER BY THE PILOT. THE ALLIED AUTHORITIES WISH TO MAKE CLEAR THAT, IF SUCH INCIDENTS DO NOT CEASE, THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES WILL BE HELD SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACCIDENTS THAT MIGHT OCCUR. END TEXT.

2. KHOTULEV WAS VISIBLY DISTRESSED TO BE TOLD OF FRESH CORRIDOR INCIDENT. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT DANGEROUS MANEUVER BY SOVIET PILOT HAD BEEN INTENTIONAL. NOT ONLY WOULD THIS SERVE NO PURPOSE, BUT PREVIOUS CORRIDOR INCIDENTS INVESTIGATED BY SOVIETS HAD UNCOVERED NO INDICATIONS OF DELIBERATE ACTION.. AS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, KHOTULEV ALLUDED TO CONGESTION OF AIR TRAFFIC OVER EUROPE GENERALLY AND TO FACT THAT, AS HE ALLEGED, SOME 200 ACCIDENTS OR NEAR MISSES OCCURRED OVER FRG ANNUALLY. ACTING POLAD POINTED OUT THAT AIR TRAFFIC IN CORRIDORS WAS CONSIDERABLY LESS DENSE THAN OVER FRG, AND URGED THAT EMBASSY TAKE FIRM ACTION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 01642 141805Z

WITH SOVIET MILITARY TO BRING FLIGHTS UNDER BETTER CONTROL. KHOTULEV WAS APOLOGETIC THAT REPLY HAD NOT YET BEEN GIVEN TO ALLIED STATEMENT ON JULY 25 AIR INCIDENT, AND SAID THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY PURSUE MATTER IF INFORMATION REQUESTED FROM SOVIET MILITARY WAS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS. HE UNDERTOOK TO INVESTIGATE AUGUST 13 INCIDENT AND TO PROVIDE RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. RESULTS OF PROTEST IN BASC BEING REPORTED BY SEPTTEL.

4. USCOB CONCURS.GEORGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
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06 JUL 2006

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